

SB 634 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY
House Committee On Energy and Environment

Action Date: 05/31/17
Action: Without recommendation as to passage and be referred to Rules.
Vote: 6-1-2-0
Yeas: 6 - Barnhart, Helm, Holvey, Johnson, Marsh, Reschke
Nays: 1 - Bentz
Exc: 2 - Power, Smith DB
Fiscal: Has minimal fiscal impact
Revenue: Has minimal revenue impact
Prepared By: Beth Reiley, LPRO Analyst

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Adds woody biomass used for specified purposes to list of qualifying green energy technologies that may be used to satisfy requirement that 1.5 percent of total contract price for construction, reconstruction or major renovation of a public building be spent to include green energy technology. Establishes that woody biomass employed at a site located away from site of public building to meet 1.5 percent requirement may not replace or constitute a purchase of green energy technology that employs woody biomass that existed on date on which the original building permit for the public building was issued. Establishes that in evaluating whether off-site location meets requirement, contracting agency is required to compare costs of on-site and off-site locations. Applies to public contracts entered into after effective date of Act. Takes effect on 91st day following adjournment sine die.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Existing standards for siting facilities in non-attainment areas
- Legislative history
- Emission levels of different biomass technologies

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Oregon law requires public entities to spend 1.5 percent of the total price of a public improvement contract for new construction, or the major renovation of a public building, on green energy technology. Public entities include, but are not limited to, state agencies, community colleges, school districts and education services districts and local government. In 2012, Senate Bill 1533 allowed the use of geothermal energy to satisfy the 1.5 percent requirement if the temperature of the water used as a heat source is more than 140 degrees Fahrenheit. In 2015, House Bill 3329 modified the standard for geothermal energy resources to qualify as a green energy technology if the water used as a heat source is more than 128 degrees Fahrenheit and the system is used for a public school building.

Senate Bill 634 would add woody biomass used as a fuel for space heating or water heating, or as a fuel for a combined heat and power system, to the list of qualifying green energy technology.